

SENATE RESOLUTION 167

By Williams

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Harry Caray.

WHEREAS, it was with great sadness and a profound sense of loss that the members of this General Assembly and the citizens of our state learned of the death of Harry Caray; and

WHEREAS, born Harry Christopher Carabina in St. Louis, Missouri, Harry rose from humble beginnings to one day be known the world over as baseball's most beloved announcer; and

WHEREAS, in 1945, under the name Harry Caray, he became the announcer for the St. Louis Cardinals. He would remain their announcer until 1969, an incredible 25 seasons and 3,930 games. During this time, the Cardinals would win over 2,100 games, four National League Pennants, and three World Series titles; and

WHEREAS, in 1970, at an age when many would be slowing down, Harry proved he was just getting started by broadcasting one season for the Oakland A's, then for eleven seasons with the Chicago White Sox; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, Harry became an announcer for the Sox's cross-town rival Chicago Cubs, baseball's loveable losers; and

WHEREAS, in his sixteen seasons with the Cubs, Harry broadcast over 2,500 games, including the Cubs' Eastern Division Championship season in 1984 and again in 1989, their first championships since the 1940s; and

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WHEREAS, with his trademark calls of “Holy Cow!”, “Cubs Win! Cubs Win! Cubs Win!”, and “It might be, it could be, it is! A Home Run!”, he was truly a fan's announcer; and

WHEREAS, in a career that lasted 53 seasons and 8,327 games, Harry Caray established himself as the first and foremost dean of all baseball announcers, announcing baseball greats from Musial to Mays to Maddux; and

WHEREAS, the legacy that Harry leaves behind will be never be forgotten but will be treasured by friends, associates, and fans of baseball for many years to come; and

WHEREAS, with his thick, oversized glasses and characteristic smile, the “Mayor of Rush Street” never forgot that baseball is played for and presented to the fans; and

WHEREAS, Harry has been followed into the broadcast profession by his son, Skip Caray, an announcer for the Atlanta Braves, and his grandson, Chip Caray, the newest announcer for Harry’s beloved Chicago Cubs; and

WHEREAS, with his wife, Dutchie, Harry made a home in Palm Springs, California; and

WHEREAS, following his return to the broadcast booth after a stroke, Harry ended a welcome back telephone call from President Ronald Reagan with the phrase “I’ve got to go now, Mr. President, Ryne Sandburg just got a hit!”; and

WHEREAS, in 1989, Harry was appropriately recognized by his peers and appropriately selected to the broadcasters’ wing of Baseball’s Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, though his accomplishments are legion and legendary, Harry will perhaps be best remembered for leading the crowd through the "seventh inning stretch" with his unforgettable and incredible renditions of “Take Me Out to the Ballgame”; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this legislative body should pause in its deliberations to remember the exemplary life of this outstanding baseball ambassador; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we honor the memory of Mr. Harry Caray, remembering with admiration his lasting legacy to the game he loved so dearly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our deepest sympathy to his family, his friends, and baseball fans everywhere.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.